



*Linkages to Learning, a Collaborative School-based Partnership among the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, Public and Private Agencies, Families and Communities*

## A Linkages Thanksgiving at Dave and Buster's

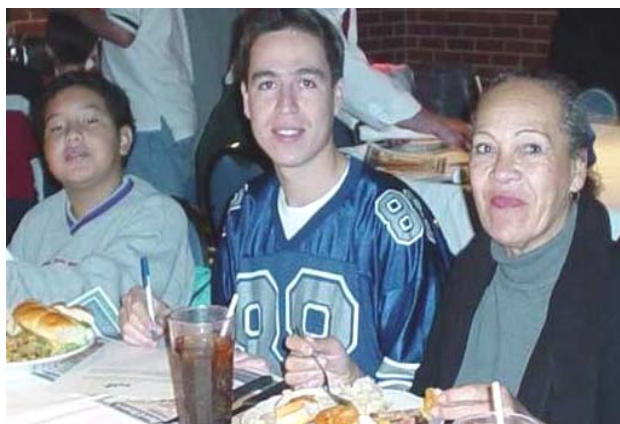


Bright and early on Thanksgiving Day, Dave and Buster's of White Flint held their 3rd annual Thanksgiving luncheon and games. They provided a delicious turkey and ham dinner "with all the trimmings" to 500 children and parents from Linkages to Learning sites. D&B employees, from busboy to manager, were on-hand to serve dinner, explain the games to parents and assist children as they played games and collected coveted prizes.

In addition to the festive meal, D&B's offered a great opportunity for parents and children to be together, play games and win prizes. Linkages staff helped organize the event and plan logistics so families could participate.

Dave Joy, the restaurant's general manager, said "What better way to give back to the community than to provide a good time for families with parents who can't spend quality time with their kids because they're working two or three jobs. We have families come up to us after the event, and the kids are smiling and the adults are crying because of what we've done here." A Linkages father notes "We are very joyful because the kids can have a good time – this is a great idea because it's a day about sharing and we feel like we're a part of it, too."

*Linkages' Families Celebrate  
Thanksgiving with  
Dave & Busters*



### Inside this Issue:

Montgomery Housing Partnership	2
Parents & Children Talking	2
Donors & Partners	3-6
Operation Warm-Up	7
Staff News	7
Mothers Empowerment Tea	8

**Coming Soon!**  
**Mothers  
Empowerment Tea**  
**Tuesday, April 22**  
**See p.8**



## New Homes for Linkages Families with Montgomery Housing Partnership

Finding affordable housing in Montgomery County remains one of the most pressing challenges faced by Linkages families. Montgomery Housing Partnership received a grant from the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust to reduce rents for three Linkages families needing transitional housing. Through the grant, these families, who were homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, also receive the support of a Linkages case manager to help them in their quest for self-sufficiency.

Due to their mobility, these struggling families lack strong ties to the community and generally cannot turn to individuals

or institutions when they face a crisis. By delivering school-based services for these high-risk families, the Linkages collaboration strengthens their connections with their school and their community. Families were referred to the initiative by Linkages staff from the Kennedy Cluster. An interagency committee screened potential participants and selected three families to live in the Amherst Square and Pembridge Square apartments in Wheaton.

The families included a homeless father who had spent the last year living in various motels— as no other alternatives were available. Despite these problems,

the son had stayed in the same school and attended regularly. The second family had been self-sufficient for years until the husband suffered a work-related injury, drastically reducing their income and creating a potential eviction for the family.

The third family, a mother and three children, lived in an overcrowded situation and yearned for a place of their own. Karen McNally, the Linkages case manager in the Kennedy Cluster, and Byron Diaz, assistant case manager, are working with the families to ensure that they have the resources and support they need.

## Linkages Helps Parents and Children Talk

School community health nurses have joined with Linkages to enhance parent child communication through the Maryland's Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy Adult and Children Talking initiative.

According to Jane Larsen, R.N., Montgomery County's teen pregnancy prevention coordinator, "Research supports that long-term prevention of teen pregnancy requires healthy lifestyle choices. Our goal is to promote positive family relationships. When parents share their values with their children, the kids are able to withstand outside influences more effectively. Besides preventing pregnancy, we know that talking with kids reduces other risky behaviors, like smoking, drinking and drug abuse."

During the last school year, Christie Harhai and Camille Wheeler, nurses at Summit Hall and Harmony Hills Elementary Schools, were each awarded a \$150 mini-grant to initiate the "Let's Talk" seminars in their respective school communities, each serving over 50 parents. "It was so fantastic to see how a diverse parent community share common concerns about their children, regardless of language and cultural differences," said Larsen, noting that more than half of the attendees were Spanish speakers.

"While the nurses helped design the presentations to meet the community needs, the Linkages professionals were able to engage the parents because of their positive relationships with the community," said Larsen. Mary Lee O'Connell, a nurse practitioner and family sexuality educator, led the presentation, assisted by Luis Trejo, a bilingual social worker.

This year's grants will serve several Linkages sites, including Broad Acres, Highland, Viers Mill, Fox Chapel and Maryvale elementary schools, with school community health nurses Ladys Lux, Bernice Pine, Julie Olson and Joanne Banda coordinating the programs through the Linkages collaboration.



*L to R: Back row: Joann Banda, Gail Michaels, Camille Wheeler, Bev Plowucha, Jane Larsen, Ibrayina Aldana, Irm Pichot, Julie Olson, Joan Glick; Front Row: Bernice Pine, Ladys Lux, Ana Schmitz, Marta Contreras, Aurora Gavilan*





## Thanks to our Donors and Partners



**Besides delivering Linkages' counseling, prevention and family support services, Linkages staff, community partners and hundreds of volunteers were involved in collecting over 800 holiday food baskets, thousands of toys and gifts and over one thousand winter coats for Montgomery County's vulnerable families. Thanks to all for joining together to support Linkages communities!**

- **Toys for Tots/Hearts and Hands and Hope Worldwide** for distributing hundreds of toys to Linkages to Learning families, and to all the community members who made donations;
- **Jean Catherwood, Kathy Kolar & Desiree Magney & Bethesda Chevy Chase HS's PTSA** for organizing a food and toy drive for 77 families from New Hampshire Estates, Oakview, Pine Crest and Montgomery Knolls elementary schools;
- **Toni Patt and The Hair Cuttery** for donating funds to supply 70 children with holiday toys;
- **The Colburn Foundation and the D.C. United and Washington Freedom Soccer Teams** for donating hundreds of tickets for 2003 soccer games to Linkages families;
- **Dave Joy, Dave and Buster's, and D&B employees** for donating and serving Thanksgiving dinners and providing entertainment for 500 Linkages families;
- **Cherterel Goss of Starbucks and employees of Chevy Chase Pavilion** for donating holiday food baskets, grocery certificates and a New Balance gift certificate for Linkages families;
- **Cecelia Hoatson, Tanya Taylor and employees of HMS Host Corporation** for its employee grocery drive, donating a carload of groceries, diapers and toiletries for Linkages families;
- **The Montgomery County Volunteer Center and the Holiday Basket Coalition** for helping to match community businesses and donors with Linkages families;
- **Barbara Reineke, Credella Duvall and Lockheed Martin** for donating \$1000 for December food baskets and for donating 27 Thanksgiving baskets to Linkages families;
- **Mr. & Mrs. Leon Reed** for donating 31 soccer balls for holiday giving to Linkages families;
- **Lynne Ganek and First Book-Montgomery County** for donating hundreds of new children's books to Linkages families;
- **Deidre Donahoe, Chris Collins Weinstein, and USA Today** for donating hundreds of new children's books to Linkages families;
- **Edward Kubis and staff at Somerford Corporation** for donating dozens of new books for Linkages students;
- **Stephanie Burke and Barnes & Noble customers** for donating dozens of new books to Linkages families;
- **Candace Port Hull and PTA members from Chevy Chase ES, Bethesda ES, Rock Creek Forest ES, Rosemary Hills ES, Somerset ES, Westbrook ES, Westland ES, and B-CC HS** for collecting 800 winter coats and warm clothing for Linkages and Montgomery County families, and to business supporters **Cindy Chambers of Long & Foster Realtors, Christopher Dodge Real Estate, Jane Fairweather Realtors, Jeff Foster & Associates, Kristin Gerlach Real Estate and Phyllis Kass Interiors** for providing funds for cleaning;
- **Mr. & Mrs. Feldman** for donating over 109 books to Linkages children;
- **Joy Sansbury** for donating school supplies for Linkages students;
- **The Department of Recreation** for donating many boxes of t-shirts to Linkages families;
- **Staff and students from The Other Way School, Suzanne Barmine and family, Sarah Wolf, Susie Branson, Jumoko Bello, Tyler Newell and Rachel Passman from Eastern MS, Kim Schiffrin and Congregation Beth El of Bethesda's Havurah group and Sarah Roark's student mitzvah corps** for wrapping over 750 books for holiday giving;
- **Pat Perry and Mehul Shah** of New Balance in Washington, D.C., for their donation of a gift certificate for a Linkages family;
- **David's Beautiful People Hair & Colour Designers** for donating 60 holiday gifts for Parkland MS and Fox Chapel ES children;
- **Staff and community members at Fox Chapel ES** for sponsoring a clothing drive to address the needs of 13 families;
- **Allentuck Landscaping** of Gaithersburg for donating holiday gifts for two Fox Chapel ES families and for hundreds of peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for Summit Hall ES students;
- **New York & Company staff** for donating holiday gifts for three Fox Chapel ES families;
- **The staff at Sally Ride ES** for "adopting" a family living in a shelter, donating and delivering many holiday gifts to the family;
- **Tony L. Ghanem** of Gaithersburg for donating Safeway gift cards to Sally Ride ES families;

## Donors and Partners

*Continued from p. 3*

- **Darlene Yaeger** of Gaithersburg for donating food baskets and toys to five Sally Ride ES families;
- **Barbara Preston and her Brownie Troop** in Germantown for donating a food basket and toys for Sally Ride ES families;
- **Lourdes West** of Gaithersburg for delivering toys and gift cards to Sally Ride ES families;
- **Jan Chappel** from Damascus for delivering toys and gift cards to Sally Ride ES families;
- **Church of The Redeemer** for providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food gift cards to Gaithersburg MS families;
- **Celeste Spade and BAE Systems** for donating space-age pens for Linkages tutoring program at Summit Hall ES;
- **The City of Gaithersburg** for donating food gift cards for Thanksgiving, and food gift cards and toys for Christmas to Gaithersburg MS families;
- **The City of Gaithersburg** for coordinating Thanksgiving and holiday food and toy baskets, serving 43 Summit Hall ES families, and **Michelle Campos**, guidance counselor at SHES, for enrolling 68 children in the City of Gaithersburg's Secret Santa program;
- **Leslie Beitar, health room technician, Mary Reed, assistant principal, and Craig Logue, principal** for donating toys to Summit Hall ES families;
- **Alicia Lewis-Palmer and family** for donating an enormous quantity of groceries to a Summit Hall ES family;
- **Tina's Consignment Shop, the Church of the Ascension, and Travilah ES** for supporting a "rummage sale" organized by the Summit Hall ES PTA and Linkages;
- **Rowe Communications** for providing holiday toys to children at Gaithersburg MS and Sally Ride ES;
- **Mr. and Mrs. John Kean** for donating funds for food and gift certificate for families from Harmony Hills ES, and for funding children's medications through the School-Based Health Ctr.;
- **St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church** for donating Giant and K-Mart gift certificates to Harmony Hills ES families;
- **The Mission Commission at St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church** for donating a holiday basket to a family from Harmony Hills ES;
- **The RENEW Group of St. Andrew's the Apostle Catholic Church** for donating Thanksgiving food baskets to two Harmony Hills ES families and for donating Christmas holiday food and gift baskets to three Harmony Hills ES families;
- **Heather Handel, Caryn Nagler and Abt Associates employees** for donating holiday baskets with food and gift certificates to 15 Harmony Hills ES families;
- **Mary Beth Boring, and Girl Scout Troops 1623 and 3565** for donating holiday baskets with food and gifts to three Harmony Hills ES families;
- **The Kalai family** for donating a food basket at Thanksgiving and a holiday basket with food and gifts for Harmony Hills ES families;
- **An anonymous donor** who provided food and gifts for Harmony Hills ES families;
- **Bethesda United Church of Christ** for donating two Thanksgiving food baskets to Viers Mill ES families, and for donating hats, scarves, mittens and gifts through their "Mitten Tree;"
- **Research Triangle Institute** in Rockville for donating holiday gift and food baskets to two Viers Mill ES families;
- **Laura Jaynes and Girl Scout Troops 846 and 3190** for donating holiday baskets with food and gifts to two Viers Mill ES families;
- **Nancy Long and Girl Scout Troop 2777** for donating a holiday basket with food and gifts for a Viers Mill ES family;
- **Al and Dana Lopez** for donating a holiday basket with food and gifts for a Viers Mill ES family;
- **Millian Memorial Methodist Church** for donating four Thanksgiving baskets to Viers Mill ES and Harmony Hills ES families;
- **Garrett Park ES** for donating holiday gifts to 20 Viers Mill and Harmony Hills ES families;
- **American Legion Wheaton Post 268** for donating food gift certificates to 10 Viers Mill ES families at Thanksgiving and to 20 Harmony Hills ES and Viers Mill ES families for December holidays;
- **Nonah Kumah and King's Table/Jesus House** for donating Thanksgiving baskets for 12 Harmony Hills ES and Viers Mill ES families, 8 Oakview ES/New Hampshire Estates families, 13 Rolling Terrace ES families and 6 Eastern MS families;
- **The staff at Harmony Hills and Viers Mill ES and to Lynn Berkley, Amy Hixenbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Kean, the Kibbe Family, Karen Ticknell and Camille Wheeler** for their help throughout the year at Harmony Hills ES;
- **Chris Renshaw of Text Design and the B-CC Chamber of Commerce** for donating school supplies to Parkland MS students;
- **Project Harvest, Millian United Methodist Church, Leisure World Lions Club and Millian United Methodist Church** for donating Thanksgiving baskets to 52 Parkland MS families and for donating 50 holiday baskets to Parkland MS families;
- **Parkland MS Student Government Association and teachers** for organizing a food drive to replenish the Linkages' food pantry at Parkland MS;
- **Leisure World Lion's Club** for donating eyeglasses for two Parkland MS families;
- **Staff at Parkland MS** for donating holiday gifts to Parkland MS students;



## Donors and Partners

*Continued from p. 4*

- **Sara Pullen and SHARP staff members** for donating holiday gifts to Parkland MS students;
- **Rita and David Murray** for donating holiday gifts to Parkland MS students;
- **Lezlie Crosswhite** for donating holiday gifts to Parkland MS students;
- **Anonymous donors from several synagogues, churches and PTAs** from Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville for meeting families' emergency needs in the Kennedy Cluster, donating clothing, furniture and appliances;
- **St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Rockville, St. Peter's Catholic Church in Olney, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Silver Spring, and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Potomac** for donating hundreds of dollars to meet emergency rent and/or utility needs of several families in the Kennedy Cluster;
- **Daryl Thorne and the staff of Argyle MS, Deb Danielson and the staff of Georgian Forest ES, Revonda Mosher, the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring, Amy Christianson, Sandy Spring Meeting, and Richard Sprecher and staff of Lee MS** for donating 638 gifts to more than 235 children and teens through their holiday gift drives;
- **Wheaton Kiwanis Club** for donating holiday Thanksgiving food baskets for 24 Highland ES families;
- **Wheaton Presbyterian Church** for donating Thanksgiving and holiday food baskets for 10 Highland ES families;
- **Amanda Ebbs** of Silver Spring for donating holiday basket for a Highland ES family;
- **St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Bethesda** for donating holiday baskets for 22 Highland ES families;
- **Caroline Wanner of the Mental Health Association** for her cash donation for Highland ES families;
- **Olney Kiwanis Club** for their donation of toys for 70 Highland ES children;
- **Anita Limon's Class at Holton-Arms School** for their holiday food basket for a Highland ES family and for their generous cash donation for Highland ES families;
- **The Tzu Chi Buddhist Compassion Relief Foundation** for donating Thanksgiving food baskets for 25 Eastern MS families and December gifts for 43 Silver Spring International MS students;
- **Mercury Computer Systems and Elizabeth McNeil** for sponsoring Broad Acres ES families, donating gift certificates for 25 families and toys for 10 families;
- **Broad Acres teachers Jessica Moon, Doreen Petit, Catherine Randall, and Felice Erdheim and the 1st grade "team"** for holiday basket donations for Broad Acres ES families;



Parent volunteer Elisa Colindres and Vanessa Morales, Linkages site coordinator from Parkland MS in Wheaton, Maryland select children's books wrapped by volunteers for family-giving during the holiday season.

- **Holly Searl, Broad Acres ES staff, and members of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church** for "adopting" six Broad Acres ES families through the holiday basket program;
- **Washington Hebrew Congregation** for donating 100 backpacks with school supplies to Broad Acres ES families;
- **The Moon family** for donating Giant gift certificates and other household items for two Broad Acres ES families;
- **Ron Yudd and Leadership Cares** for donating 85 Thanksgiving food baskets for Silver Spring International MS, Sally Ride ES, Broad Acres ES, Greencastle ES, Banneker MS and Harmony Hills ES families;
- **D&R International** for donating December holiday gifts for 40 Silver Spring International MS students;
- **Staff and families from Silver Spring International MS and especially to Ole Varmer, PTSA president and Else Varmer, Elizabeth Frick and Calvin Pierce, Marilyn Fogel, Cheryl Townsel, Leta Holley, Heidi and James Sauber, Kathryn von Rautenfeld, Jeanne Philbin, Schwindt & Co., Anne Kaiser, and the Special Ed staff** for donating over \$1,400 in Giant Food Gift Certificates for 75 SSIMS families for the December holidays;
- **Staff and families from Silver Spring International MS and Pat Cochran, Jeanne Philbin, Sharon Ballard, Susan Remmert, Barbara Doherty, Lulia Lennen, Marilyn Fogel, Chris Shlemon, Guidance Counselor Barbara Moore, and Principal Dr. Gary Miller** for donating December holiday gifts for SSIMS students and siblings;

## Donors and Partners

Continued from page 5

- **Silver Spring International MS parents Ann Collins, Frank Aikman, Mary Fromyer, Cheryl Townsel, and Marilyn Fogel** for volunteering for the December holiday gift distribution;
- **Jose Segura and staff at Silver Spring International MS** for coordinating an ongoing clothing drive;
- **Rolling Terrace ES staff and Principal Phyllis Taylor, Carl Bond, Christine Demosteyrin, Matthew Larson, Elizabeth Burn, Deborah Doe, Elba Batiz, Allison Embow, Sonja Bloetner, Karen Rhodes** for participating in Linkages' holiday gift drive for RTES students, and to **Maria Farber**, who donated 33 gifts;
- **Alison Merlow and Aiden Montessori School** for donating holiday baskets and gifts to three Rolling Terrace ES families;
- **Reverend Susan Gresinger and congregants of St. John's Norwood Parish** for donating cribs, mattresses and a playpen for Rolling Terrace ES families;
- **Phil Eckert** for donating a crib, playpen and bedding for Rolling Terrace ES families;
- **Christine Waltz Dallaire and the DC Urban Moms Group** for donating baby equipment to Rolling Terrace ES families;
- **Harry and Kendall Storm** for donating a crib mattress for a Rolling Terrace ES family;
- **Staff from Pinecrest and Montgomery Knolls ES** for responding to the schools' "giving snowman," donating 32 educational toys for children;
- **Silver Spring Church of Christ** for donating six Thanksgiving and three Christmas baskets for Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES families;
- **Marvin Memorial Presbyterian Church** for donating 50 gifts to Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES families;
- **National Food Processors Association** for donating holiday baskets and gift cards to 10 Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES families;
- **Tracy Tang** for adopting a Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES family for Thanksgiving and Christmas;
- **Kari Lieberman from Child Center and Adult Services** for donating a Christmas basket to a Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES family;
- **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church** for donating gifts to two Montgomery Knolls/Pine Crest ES families;
- **Staff from New Hampshire Estates/Oak View ES** for responding to the schools' "giving snowmen," donating dozens of children's toys;
- **New Hampshire Estates/Oak View ES PTA** for collecting winter coats for families;
- **Lori Ann Perez and Drs. D'Albora, Osha and Associates** for adopting a New Hampshire Estates/Oak View ES family, donating Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets;
- **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church** for donating gifts to two New Hampshire Estates/Oak View ES families;
- **Child Center and Adult Services** for "adopting" a New Hampshire Estates/Oak View ES family during the holidays;
- **Lori Shore** for donating 20 coats to Eastern MS students;
- **The Junior Woman's Club of Chevy Chase** for donating dozens of coats to Eastern MS students;
- **Allen Chapel AME and the office of Congressman Albert Wynn** for Thanksgiving food basket donations to Greencastle ES and Banneker MS families;
- **The American College of Cardiology** for holding a clothing drive for Greencastle ES families;
- **Barbara Flack-Darko and the African and Caribbean Leadership Institute, Kim Watson and PEPCO and Carole Wysocki and the National Symphony Orchestra** for its coat drive and 20 NSO tickets to Greencastle ES and Banneker MS families;
- **Tri-City Eagles Hockey Team, Ms. Elizabeth Burroughs, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Sun Trust Bank, Mr. Nathan Kim and First Korean Church's Sunday School** for donating December food baskets and holiday toys tickets to Greencastle ES and Banneker MS families;
- **Eastern MS teachers and staff** for helping to organize a clothing drive for Linkages families;
- **Karen Seibert and Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1230** of Chevy Chase for donating holiday gifts and coats for dozens of Eastern MS families;
- **Lynne Yao and Brock Beamer** for donating funds for three holiday food baskets for Linkages families;
- **The Geneva Day School** for donating holiday toys to Linkages families;
- **Temple Beth Ami** for donating school supplies, dozens of disposable diapers, peanut butter and jelly, children's books, videos and coats, housewares and holiday toys to Linkages families;
- **Marcia Kay and Congregation B'nai Israel** for donating school supplies and dozens of beanie babies and books to Linkages' children;
- **Sylvia Herman and the Rockville Republican Women's Club** for donating gifts for Linkages' holiday toy drive;
- **Edna Turner and Helping Hands of the Rockville Senior Center** for donating dozens of hand-knitted mittens, caps and sweaters to Linkages families;
- **The City of Rockville** for donating holiday baskets and a hundred toys to 67 Maryvale ES families;
- **Beverly Farms ES PTA** for donating clothing and a dozen large boxes of food for Maryvale ES families;

and thanks to any donors we may have inadvertently omitted...



## Operation Warm-Up

Every year, Linkages works with many of its community partners and local clothing closets to ensure that warm coats are available to the children and families we serve. Aware of Linkages needs and with an uncanny premonition of the frigid and snowy weather ahead, volunteer Candace Port-Hull and the Chevy Chase ES PTA organized its first "Operation Warm Up" coat drive with B-CC cluster PTAs, including Bethesda ES, North Chevy Chase ES, Rock Creek Forest ES, Rosemary Hills ES, Somerset ES, Westbrook ES, Westland MS and B-CC HS.

Area businesses provided \$500 to clean the 800 coats shared through the cluster and purchased mittens, hats and warm winter clothing. Linkages site coordinators, working closely with school and health room staff members, identified the children and parents most in need of warm winter clothing. Staff were able to shop for the sizes they needed in Linkages transformed office, complete with coat racks and size tags. With so many coats donated, Linkages reached out to school nurses, child welfare workers and others engaged in prevention and early intervention in the County to serve additional families.

Thanks to Candace, B-CC cluster PTAs, and to BCC's business sponsors for making the drive so successful: Cindy Chambers of Long & Foster Realtors, Christopher Dodge Real Estate, Jane Fairweather Realtors, Jeff Foster & Associates, Kristin Gerlach Real Estate and Phyllis Kass Interiors.



*Linkages staff members Marta Contreras of Silver Spring YMCA Youth Services at Broad Acres ES, Lilliam Maysonet of Child and Adult Services' AMIGO program at Oak View ES & New Hampshire Estates ES, and Carol Binta of Rockville Youth Services at Maryvale ES bringing a bounty of coats to their Linkages families.*

## Staff News



**Linkages welcomes its new and reassigned staff:**

**Belen Bryant**, Case Manager, Maryvale ES  
**Rachel Kavanaugh**, Mental Health Counselor, Maryvale ES  
**Louise Bradford**, Family Services Aide, Maryvale ES  
**Byron Diaz**, Asst. Case Manager, Kennedy Cluster  
**Veronica Henry**, Community Service Aide, Summit Hall ES

## Sparber Wins Innovation Award

More than 20 Linkages partners attended the HHS Employee Recognition Ceremony at Rockville's Glenview Mansion to honor Ilene Sparber, recipient of its 2002 Innovation Award for her contributions to Linkages to Learning. Sparber, the Department of Health and Human Services representative to Linkages Resource Team, was surprised to learn of her selection for the award. "What made it really special was to have my colleagues and friends there" said Sparber. "Their respect and support means so much to me, as I truly value and rely on each one of them to make Linkages 'work.' I'm very proud of what we're accomplishing together to better serve the children and families in our schools."

Sparber was nominated by colleagues in recognition of her leadership during Linkages expansion from two to twenty-two schools and for her ability to "listen and respond to needs" as defined by customers and communities. Sparber's nomination cited her role in helping each Linkages team to "build an array of culturally competent services for families while creating a culture of caring in an interagency, collaborative environment."



*Corinne Stevens, former acting director of the Dept. of Health and Human Services, presents award to Ilene Sparber with the Linkages Resource Team*



Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive  
Montgomery County, Maryland



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**ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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WE'VE MOVED ON THE WEB:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/Linkages](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/Linkages)



**Save the Date: Tuesday, April 22 Linkages' Mother's Empowerment Tea  
3 to 5 p.m. at Glenview Mansion in Rockville  
\$35 per person; RSVP 240.777.1184 See article below for details.**

**Snail mail or e-mail?** Just forward your e-mail address and we'll "e-let" you when the new edition arrives: [cathy.hellmuth@co.mo.md.us](mailto:cathy.hellmuth@co.mo.md.us) To update your address or to be removed from our list, e-mail Cathy or call 240.777.1184

## Linkages Mother's Empowerment Tea at Rockville's Glenview Mansion: April 22

Join County Executive Douglas Duncan and County Council President Michael Subin at **Linkages to Learning's Mothers Empowerment Tea on Tuesday, April 22**. The event, organized to fund Linkages' Mothers Empowerment Program, will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Rockville Civic Center's Glenview Mansion. Guests will be treated to international delicacies prepared by *Through the Kitchen Door* graduates and music from a Blair HS Orchestra's chamber ensemble.

Besides having an opportunity to support the program and "network" with Linkages' movers and shakers, fabulous **raffle and silent auction** items will be on-hand for the taking. By launching the Mothers Empowerment Tea, **Linkages' first fund-raiser in ten years**, we hope to raise **\$20,000** to support these expanded services, especially designed to help mothers increase self-esteem, nurture supportive relationships and gain information about their communities:

### Through the Kitchen Door

This week-long course in food preparation and nutrition is tailored to the cultural and social needs of our parents. The training provides skills to use in the home and workplace and helps improve participants' confidence and self-determination.

**(\$2,000 per course for 15 participants)**

### Mothers Retreats at Rising Phoenix

Hands-on activities are interwoven with supportive counseling at this mountain-side retreat in Western Maryland. The arts and the natural environment provide the setting where women connect, reflect and set goals for themselves and their families.

**(\$200 per woman)**

### Mothers Support Groups

Developed to reduce isolation and to initiate a system of social support, these groups help mothers cope with many challenges. As the women meet each week, they develop a network of friendships and the guidance of a facilitator helps them learn new skills.

**(\$1,000 per group per year)**

Watch your mailbox for your invitation. Be a Platinum (\$500), Gold (\$100) or Silver (\$35) sponsor! If you have not received an invitation, are interested in purchasing a ticket to the event, or have goods or services to donate for the silent auction, please contact Vivian Yao at 240.777.1109 or [vivian.yao@co.mo.md.us](mailto:vivian.yao@co.mo.md.us)

*Linkages Mothers Empowerment Program: "Building confident, self-aware and economically secure parents"*

